February 1991

the Co-op Spirit

people helping
people with
personal technology

TechAlliance™

...a computer cooperative

Volume 1, Number 1 February 1991

Published by

TechAlliance

19309 West Valley Hwy, Suite R-109
Kent, Washington 98032
206/251-5222

THE CO-OP SPIRIT is the monthly newsletter of TechAlliance, a non-profit computer cooperative committed to providing members with resources that increase the understanding and enjoyment of personal computers. The co-op provides members with user groups for the Amiga, Apple // Family, Macintosh, and MS-DOS machines. Both beginning and advanced assistance are provided at our various Special Interest Group Meetings. The Kent, Washington office is presently being set up as a resource center for our local members. Members can peruse the software and book library. This newsletter is our official organ and is sent to every member. It consists mostly of contributions from the membership which include industry news, machine-specific articles, and other items of interest.

MEMBERSHIPS: TechAlliance Memberships may be obtained by filling out the form on the back cover of this newsletter and mailing it, along with your dues, to TechAlliance. Annual Membership dues are $25.00 per year; $35 per year outside the U.S.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES: The deadline for articles, news, and meeting announcements will be the 1st of the prior month. All articles must be submitted on a 3½"disk in ASCII text format with hardcopy included *(this is the preferred method)*, or articles may also be uploaded in ASCII text format to the TechAlliance BBS with hardcopy submitted by mail. TechAlliance reserves the right to review, edit, delete or accept articles at its discretion.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Please see last pages of newsletter for meeting schedules and times.

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TechAlliance Is Alive And Well!

Much has happened during the last two years. After Apple Computer decided to take the APDA operations back under its wing in January of 1989, we had to set a new direction for TechAlliance. One of the first things we did was to change our name from Apple Puget Sound Program Library Exchange (A.P.P.L.E.) to TechAlliance. This allowed us to separate ourselves from Apple Computer and made it easier for us to offer new services for a variety of computer platforms. We then attempted to establish probably too many new services at once and eventually learned that we should go back to our roots as a user group. So, yes, our new direction is our old direction – to provide our members with resources which increase their understanding and enjoyment of personal computers. ▲

Why am I getting this newsletter?

You are getting this newsletter either because you are a current member of TechAlliance or because you are a member who expired after June 1, 1990. ▲

ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 2, 1991
6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at our office in Kent. Come and meet your new Board of Directors. There will be a treasurer's report and also a "State of the Co-op" address.

Editor's Notes

We will soon begin a regular program of mailing out renewal notices. We will be sending you a membership renewal and questionnaire.

Please realize that this newsletter is a very important first step in the re-building of our co-op. The board of directors is anxious to hear your input. Become active – write us and let us know what services we should offer; submit some news or information to the newsletter; participate in the member-to-member consulting network. Your active participation will make TechAlliance a vital organization.

The following articles have been contributed by ***members.*** We look forward to hearing from you. The next issue will contain more contributions and comments from you, our members. ▲

The Co-op Spirit

With our re-established direction as a users group we need to get back to the basics of members helping members. We were formed when the secrets of the Apple // were a mystery; now our members are exploring the wonders of the Apple //, the IIGS, the Macintosh, the Amiga, and MS-DOS machines. Although this may seem like a wide range of platforms to support, we can do it if we use our most valuable resource – each other! Outlined below are some programs designed to get our 8000 members in touch with each other and maintain the co-op spirit.

■ Newsletter

A newsletter has always been a good way to share information. This first issue is a start, but we need your help to make it grow. If you have something you feel would be of interest to the other members, please submit it to our regular address, care of the Co-op Spirit Editor. Include both printed and disk copies of all submissions in ASCII format on a 3½" disk. *This is the members' newsletter – your contributions can make it a valuable resource.*

■ Member-to-Member Consulting Network

Part of the mission of the co-op is to help members learn from each other. Most members are very willing to share their knowledge and experience; the difficult part is getting members in contact with each other. That is why we have formed the member-to-member consulting network. We will collect information from each member for the network. A typical listing will show the member's name, areas of knowledge and skill levels for each, and how to contact them. This will be requested when renewals are mailed. If you do not receive a renewal form and are interested in participating, please call or write us. Fortunately, in today's world we have many ways to get in contact with each other: U.S. mail, telephone (conversation and modem), and electronic services such as CompuServe, GEnie, AppleLink, America On-Line, and our own TechAlliance BBS (to name a few).

■ The TechAlliance BBS

With over 1,000 validated users, the TechAlliance BBS is one of our fastest growing services. Users find valuable technical material on this BBS, including discussions of basic and technical programming problems, viruses, and select postings from other online sources such as USENET.

The board's download libraries contain technical notes, sample code, and a collection of the usual fonts, utilities, stacks, etc.

Many of our current users are familiar with several computer environments, so crossover questions get good attention. And where possible, communication across computer types is encouraged. For example, the graphics library is largely in GIF format.

To sign on, simply call 206-251-0543. Our system uses standard modem parameters, 300-1200-2400 baud, 8 bit, no parity, one stop bit. We have three phone lines with automatic roll-over connection to the next available line. ▲

Stop!

Stop right now and check the expiration date on your mailing label. (It's on the back of this booklet.) If your expiration date is February 1991 or earlier, you have two potential problems. First of all, this could be the last all-member newsletter you will receive. Second, you may not be able to vote or run for office in the March election. We won't even mention the fact that you might not be able to download from the TBBS.

Stop feeling left out. All does not have to be lost. There is a handy TechAlliance Application/Renewal form on the back of this booklet. Photocopy it. Fill it out. Mail it in with your renewal fee – $25 for U.S. residents or $35 for international memberships.

Stop thinking you'll do this later. We need your renewal by February 22, 1991, in order to send you a ballot. And you don't want to miss an issue of this newsletter. Call if you wish (206/251-5222) from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (PST).

Go! Now that you have taken care of your TechAlliance renewal, you can enjoy the rest of this newsletter and think about what you might like to write for an upcoming issue. Enjoy! ▲

Christmas Computer Extravaganza

TechAlliance held its first annual Christmas Computer Extravaganza on December 1, 1990. It followed the General Membership Meeting. Approximately 20 members participated in showing off the best of Amiga, Apple, Macintosh, and MS-DOS machines. We had everything from MIDI to Digital Eyes. We were even lucky enough to have Empire Electronics bring two of the new Macintoshes. MacTech Journal also joined us and set up a booth. Several local vendors participated – Professional Concepts, Enhancements, Empire Electronics, and Lucky Computer. We all seemed to have a great time and spirits were high. We are all looking forward to doing this again next year. ▲

A Little Past...A Little Future... A Lot of Knowledge

by Bob Huelsdonk

Twelve Years Ago

In 1978, I bought an Apple // computer, serial number 929. It cost about $1200 plus monitor and RF modulator. It was on sale at the time; the regular price was $1700. There were no programs. There was a "Red Book" manual which had varied information written by Steve Wozniak. It had 16 Kilobytes of memory and an integer BASIC interpreter. The biggest challenge was how to do something useful with it.

Through my work, I had the opportunity of doing some programming on a Hewlett Packard 9800 desktop computer and I had read many magazines and books on the subject. I had been considering a "MITS" or a "Sol" computer kit which required assembly, as well as manually switching in the operating system on power up. It cost about the same price as the Apple //.

My friends at the time bought Commodore "Pet" or Tandy computers. My peers at work, on the other hand, said, "What in the world would you want with a computer like that?" (Back then, many of the individual engineering tasks done at work were through the phone lines to a shared mainframe across the country at 110 baud.)

My thirst for knowledge for how to do something useful to justify this "foolish" purchase was unquenchable.

Several of us recent buyers began talking when we met casually at the dealer's store and decided that some kind of meetings would help us exchange information. And so the Apple Puget Sound Program Library Exchange user's group was formed with ten founding members. We published a one to two page newsletter (Call A.P.P.L.E.) and started holding scheduled meetings at the dealer's store. Thus was the beginning of TechAlliance.

Today's Computing World

In the past twelve years, the advancement of personal computing has been one of the most profound phenomena since the industrial revolution. The prices have dropped, the capabilities have greatly multiplied, the usage has exploded, and the "Information" age is here. Or is it?

The computing tools available today are wonderful. Machines are fast enough for almost all applications, even computer aided design and real time video. Small to large businesses have conceded the productivity of quick and accurate computer processing at the desk of the worker without sharing time with tens or hundreds of other people. Data is easily transportable, allowing work to be done in the home and easily transferred to data bases at work. At the same time, the use of the computer for home and family purposes has been meager except possibly for game playing.

How Much Knowledge; How Much Wisdom?

While the computer revolution has been spiraling upward, an important cornerstone of this nation has been spiraling downward. The nation's educational system is in horrendous disrepair. We have a 25% high school drop-out rate. We have a great many functionally illiterate adults. We have serious school discipline problems.

A majority of adults today do not vote, though in our democracy they could effect real change if they did. They fall prey to negative campaign advertising without realizing that they are learning nothing about either candidate. Whether consciously or not, I believe that many of our politicians do not want improved education because an uninformed electorate is a "safe" electorate. Why else do 98% of incumbents get re-elected?

We are disgusted with overall high taxes and consequently restrict that which we have the most control over, local school budgets, while complaining that our young people are not being well educated. We pay teachers poorly and too often get what we pay for. Throwing money at the problem has not necessarily improved results where that has been tried without also installing major reforms. I am convinced that our long term viability as a world power and indeed our national quality of life is more dependent on our educational system than any other factor.

If you do not equate education with future success, I would cite some past examples. The United States is the foremost producer of food in the world. It was not always so. In the 1930s, we had the "dust bowl" and many agricultural problems. The Federal Government instituted a system of agricultural education including

agricultural colleges, agricultural educational programs for practicing farmers, and the agricultural extension agent system throughout the United States. The result was a dramatic change in practices leading to our agricultural predominance today. As another example, in any city where there are awarded advanced degrees in science or technology, the rate of new small business growth is appreciably higher than in other areas of the country.

We are creating a class society by default. Not based directly on economics but based on knowledge and information. Those who have access to knowledge contrast with those who do not. Hence we have engineers and we have fry-cooks.

We have scientists and we have retail clerks. We have teachers and we have ditch diggers. Recent surveys show that the middle class is getting smaller and the rich and the poor segments are growing. Only those who can afford to attend good colleges and who have the preparation to do well at them have a great advantage in their careers. If this trend endures, we will continue to wholesale United States jobs to Japan and Europe because we will not have enough educated people to initiate the high quality production techniques necessary to manufacture competitive products. Thus is our present dilemma.

Future Opportunities

I believe that our educational system needs a thorough overhaul. I also believe that a system based much more on the use of computers could create dramatic improvements without huge cost increases.

Much past education is based on learning content and factual information while the volume of such factual information has grown immensely. We must understand that in the information age, human memory based facts can be greatly supplemented with computer memory based facts; that the important thing is not what you know but how well you know how to access what you need to know. That gathering information, reasoning, and arriving at conclusions is much more important than memorizing the dates of the hundred years war.

This shift of education to the information age can start with school library based reference systems.

Encyclopedias can now be obtained on CD ROM media. So can music analysis tools and astronomy data. So can medical information, history data and art collections with laser video displays. The list is long and growing fast. It will be as important in the future to be able to use the computer as an information access tool as it will be to read or do algebra or balance a chemical equation.

Such a system would mean that students could do much more individual work and information research type activities. The teacher would not have to teach to the slowest learner in the class but could allow more advancement based on ability.

Eventually we need a computer for each student networked to national data bases. Think of being able to access the National Library of Congress from any classroom in the country. Think of teachers being able to spend more individual time with students as they each do more individual work. Courseware programming tools such as HyperCard are allowing much more computer based self instruction to be available. Computers will also relieve a great deal of administrative tasks such as roll-keeping, grading, record-keeping and other tasks which, when computerized, will lower administrative costs.

If this sounds utopian, it isn't. As I said before the tools are here. The thing that is not here at the moment is twofold. Many teachers are apprehensive about the use of computers because they do not know what the computer can do for them, and they have had little training in the use of the computer.

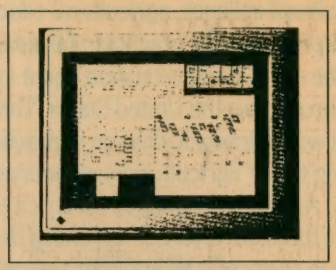
The market for teaching software has been considered poor. The costs must be kept low to be kept affordable and there is a persistent feeling that there is a greater amount of pirating of software programs in the educational field. But now the tools are such that interested teachers can more easily create their own programs. This is positive in that they know best what the program needs to be viable and they will be more creative through the act of discovery of the process and manipulation of the data. But they need help.

The message that I would like to spread is that it behooves every computer enthusiast to do what they can to help their schools and teachers implement computer teaching aids. A little time spent just in demonstrating some of the possibilities can be very rewarding. A little more time in helping a teacher develop some courseware in Hypercard or other media that is easily usable without having to become a programmer could do wonders. It's up to you. It has been said that the price of democracy is being ever vigilant. I would ask that you be not only vigilant but pro-active in the educational future of the country. s

Call For Articles!

This month there were no articles submitted related to the Amiga. C'mon you guys...someone must have something to contribute.

If you have something to share– news, an article, a tip, a comment – please submit it in ASCII text format on a 3½" disk *(this is the preferred method)*, or upload it to the BBS (Attn: Co-op Spirit Editor). Deadline for publication is always the 1st of the month prior to publication. ▲



November 1990, Beagle Brothers News

By Lee Lippert,
Tech Alliance Beagle Buddy

Since this is the first newsletter to be published by TechAlliance in some time, let me introduce myself. I have been a member of CALL Apple/TechAlliance since 1985 and have been a consumer of services from the group. I am not a programming expert but merely a user of my computer. I have an Apple IIgs with a Sider 40meg HD and 4 megs of added RAM. I use AppleWorks (Classic) 3.0 almost exclusively for most of my computer work. An opportunity presented itself to me last fall and after a considerable process, I was allowed to pick up the Beagle Buddy Program for our User Group.

The Beagle Buddy program is directed from Beagle Brothers and is designed to keep users of Beagle's TimeOut Series for AppleWorks Classic up to date with the latest revisions of the TimeOut programs which we use as enhancements to AppleWorks. There are a number of programs in the series which you will see advertised in Beagle ads in the popular Apple // magazines. All of the programs have unique enhancements to AppleWorks which can make it one of the most powerful Apple // programs available.

My function is to provide a local source for you to get the latest updates to the TimeOut series. While I am not an expert on any of the TimeOut series, I can provide assistance or try and get you an answer to your questions on Beagle TimeOut Applications. Over time I will try and give you an introduction to the various TimeOut programs in this newsletter. If you are a user of AppleWorks you should seriously consider the addition of some or all of the TimeOut programs.

Beagle Brothers has released the new Patcher v1.5 for AppleWorks. This is FreeWare, available from the TA software library at no charge, from the TA BBS, or from me. It fixes yet another bug in AppleWorks 3.0. The documentation alone is worth the effort to obtain your copy. If you use AW 3.0, you need these files! In order to obtain the latest update to your TimeOut programs, I will need to see your ORIGINAL TIMEOUT DISKS. I will copy the latest updates of the program to your disks and keep a listing of the TimeOut (TO) programs you own so I can notify you of any future updates. The cost of this service is as follows:

COST PER TIMEOUT APPLICATION

TechAlliance Members	FREE (plus postage)
Non-members	$2.00/disk (plus postage)

I try to make all the Apple // SIG meetings and can update your disks there, or they can be sent to me at:

Lee Lippert
18330 S.E. 280th St., Kent, WA 98042-5472
Phone (206) 631-0146

Please note that this updating program applies to the TimeOut Series only. I do not have the capability to update other Beagle Brothers. programs.

Please note that I cannot upload the TimeOut products or updates to our bulletin board! My agreement with Beagle Brothers. requires that I update original disks only. Updates to manuals are not normally required with the updates to the TimeOut Series. If anyone does need a new manual, they can be obtained directly from Beagle Brothers for a cost of $10.

In future issues of the Tech Alliance newsletter, I will attempt to provide information on the specific TimeOut programs. There is a data base file on the BBS which contains information on each of the programs and their specific applications. If you have a modem, download the file. ▲

Latest Release Versions for the TimeOut Series

DeskTools	3.0	MacroEase	3.0
SideSpread	3.0	TextTools	1.2 (new)
DeskTools II	2.0	PowerPack	2.0
SpreadTool	2.1 (new)	Thesarus	3.0
FileMaster	3.0	QuickSpell	3.0
SuperFonts	3.1	UltraMacros	3.1
Graph 3.1	(new)	ReportWrite	2.5 (new)
TeleComm	1.2 (new)		

Check the version numbers of your applications by entering the TimeOut Utilities, then choose selection "8. List version numbers". The version numbers of all installed TimeOut applications will be listed on the screen. If you have more than 30 applications, you will have to press TAB to list the rest of them. Then you may check your latest versions against the list available on the TA BBS.

There are a couple of new versions you should be sure you have, so watch especially for these version numbers. If you don't have the latest version of any of these applications, see your BBuddy (me) for an update!

TO.Clipboard 2.0 TO.Utilities 3.0 TO.Word.Count 2.0

And finally, TO.Paint's latest version is v2.1. This application MUST be among the first THIRTY to be loaded or it will not run! If you have more than 30 TimeOut applications, either install it first or use a utility program such as ProSel, CatDoctor, or Copy II Plus to move it so the file is among the first 30 applications. TimeOut Paint comes with both SuperFonts and Graph. ▲

RAM 4000 Memory Card for the IIGS

by Gary Hayman

Chinook Technology's RAM 4000 is a memory expansion card for Apple IIgs computers. The card uses 1-megabyte RAM chips, is DMA compatible, and is user upgradeable to 4-megabytes of on-board memory. The card complies with Apple Computer's design and construction standards for enhanced Apple IIgs memory. The 1-megabyte card regularly retails for $149, but there are discounts. By the way, I just purchased some memory chips (RAM 1MB x 1; set of 8) for my AE GS RAM Plus from Chinook for $54.95. I remember when I first looked at a set of chips they were over $150. At least the price of something is falling. You can contact Chinook Technology at 615 Main Street, #635, Longmont, CO 80501, or give them a call at (303) 678-5544. ▲

This article was reprinted from January 1991 Washington Apple Pi, Byts and Pyces, Volume 13, Number 1.

ProSel News

By Lee Lippert, ProSel Resource Associate

Tech Alliance has a new resource for all Apple // users. Glen Bredon's program ProSel can now be updated locally through me. This program is one of the most popular disk management programs available for the Apple. It offers menu driven program selection and a complete set of file and disk utilities. In addition to the standard copy, rename, lock, and unlock functions, ProSel utilities support block editing, disk optimization, backup and restoration, and disk repair.

ProSel-8 is designed for the Apple //e and //c computers; version 4.0 is current. ProSel-16 is a 16-bit program that runs on the Apple IIgs systems; version 8.55 is current. The latest version of ProSel-16 includes an appointment calendar, a powerful scientific calculator and a virus checker for the Apple //. To see a demonstration of this program for your Apple IIgs, there is a ProSel demo file on the Tech Alliance BBS for you to download and examine. If you ask present users, you will find that they are impressed with the speed and utility of this program.

Updates made by Glen are available from me for the cost of $10, which includes return postage plus payments to the program's author and distributor. To obtain an update please send your original ProSel disk to me at:

Lee Lippert
18330 S.E. 280th St.
Kent, WA 98042-5472

If you have questions on the program, I can be reached at (206) 631-0146. I highly recommend this program to all IIgs users particularly those who have a hard disk. ▲

San Francisco's MacWorld Expo '91

New Products

by Robert Riebman

This year's MacWorld Expo was bigger than ever, with a dazzling collection of products. Here are descriptions of a few that caught my attention for better or for worse:

Word Perfect 2.0, the next generation, originally slated for release last July, was finally announced to be ready. More precisely, I was told at the WordPerfect booth that the product is being "shrink wrapped as we speak" and would be on the shelf within two weeks.

Now if you are wondering why anybody would get excited about WordPerfect for the Mac, there are two things you should think about. First, there are a lot of people already familiar with WordPerfect on the PC. Consider all the companies who are either converting over to Macs from PCs or who are maintaining mixed networks. Secondly, this new version of WordPerfect for the Mac incorporates a massive array of page layout and full color graphics features similar to PageMaker while retaining the full power of a complete word processing program. Add their claims of a vastly extended macro language. Top all this off with WordPerfect's round the clock telephone technical support which I have found to be no less than excellent in the past. In conclusion, WordPerfect may have taken a while to finally release this upgrade, but the results of their long efforts promise to be nothing short of spectacular.

WordPerfect is also planning a Mac version of their PC product called "WordPerfect Office". This product will include E-mail, a network Calendar with meeting schedule capability (claimed to have many of the features of "Meeting Maker", reviewed below), a "Notebook" which will function as a flat-file database, a File Management feature, and Forms Maker for graphical construction of forms that can be used with their E-mail, Calendar, and Notebook. I was told at the WordPerfect booth that this MIGHT all be ready around March. But that's not a date I would count on.

On Technology showed it's soon-to-be-released network scheduling program called "Meeting Maker". This program allows each user to easily set up his or her own private calendar, including scheduling of recurring events, setting alarms for reminders, and saving detailed notes. Further, you can schedule a meeting by entering the names of attendees, resources required (such as the room, a projector, etc.) and view the available time slots that do not conflict with previously scheduled events. Once the meeting is scheduled, all attendees are sent notices (E-mail style) and the event is added to their calendars. Printed copies of individual calendars and meeting schedules, while not fancy in appearance, seemed to convey the necessary information quite well. Absent was the capability to print a combined calendar of several users (a feature I was particularly looking for). Meeting Maker included security features permitting each user to keep his or her calendar private while allowing "proxy" access so your secretary can access it. Overall, I found Meeting Maker quite impressive and easy to use. Meeting Maker is implemented in a fashion similar to E-mail programs, with a server designed to run on a designated machine. The program is expected to be sold in 5 and 10-user packages and possibly other sizes as well. Meeting Maker is stated in the brochure to be "compatible with AppleShare, QuickMail, Microsoft Mail, TOPS, and other network products".

One product I heard a lot of talk about was CE Software's "Tiles". I decided to go have a look for myself. If you have seen the "icon dock" on the NeXT or used the excellent shareware program "Launch", then you already have seen part of what "Tiles" can do. A Tile is an icon that either sits on the desktop or in one of a number of special windows you can create. Clicking on a Tile can launch an application, launch an application AND open a preassigned document, or execute a QuickKeys macro. You can also place several Tiles in a "Project". Clicking on the project is then like clicking on all the Tiles in the project. You can also set Tiles to automatically create a Tile each time you double click on an application or a document. The created Tile can be used later to re-launch the application or document. Tiles created this way will be deleted after an amount of time specified by the user or after a certain number of newer Tiles are created (the number is again specified by user). The purpose of this is so you can repeat something you did earlier without having to remember exactly what you did or hunt though folders to find documents and applications.

While I'm not sure that my description here does full justice to the concept of Tiles, I must say that I found Tiles unimpressive. I felt this approach was too complicated to be very practical. I prefer

to use the simpler shareware program "Launch". However, user habits vary greatly and Tiles might turn out to be very useful to some people.

There were other new products either on display or being announced that I did not have a chance to check out. I caught a brief glance of Microsoft's Excel 3.0. On the screen I saw color 3-D graphs remarkably similar to the pretty graphs produced by WINGZ. Claris announced that they are working on an upgrade to MacDraw called "MacDraw Professional". According to MacUser, MacDraw Pro should be available in the second quarter of 1991. Also featured at the show were the introduction of several new Ethernet products by Apple, Asante and Farallon. ▲

Mac Tip of the Month

Stealthy System

If you have one of those new Classics, you also have a hidden operating system. The system is ROM imprinted and can be accessed by holding down the Control-Option-X-O when you turn on the machine. Your Classic then boots from a ROM-based RAM disk called BootDisk. It mounts to your desktop and contains eight system files. Because it's ROM-based, nothing such as DA's, INITs or cdev's may be added. Go ahead and give it a try! ▲

Notes on the Mac by Paul Schlosser

Apple Announces Customer Assistance Center

On October 29th Apple announced the opening of the "Customer Assistance Center" (CAC), a new customer relations service available to all Apple computer owners. Owners of Apple computers can call the CAC when they feel that questions or problems aren't being sufficiently addressed by their local dealer. "Apple doesn't want to circumvent the reseller relationship with the customer, " said Jackie Whiting, Apple Assistance Center manager. If you call the new CAC, be prepared with a complete description of the problem, a list of products being used, and details on previous efforts to solve the problem. "The Customer Assistance Center will provide an important feedback loop for Apple, enabling us to enlarge our knowledge base and speed our responses to customer concerns. We also want customers to understand that Apple stands behind its sales, service and support infrastructure. We want to address all individual complaints and concerns effectively," said Morris Taradalsky, Apple Customer Support Products and Services vice-president. You can reach the CAC at 1-800-776-2333, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time.

New Version of Dos Mounter

Dayna Communications has announced version 2.0 of Dos Mounter, the utility that enables SuperDrive equipped Macintoshes work with MS-DOS files as if they were Mac files. Without Dos Mounter, Mac users must use Apple File Exchange to access MS-DOS files. With Dos Mounter installed you can access MS-DOS files directly from the Finder.

Version 2.0 improvements include faster operation and the ability to format MS-DOS disks. By assigning Mac applications to MS-DOS extensions, you can double click on a properly named DOS file icon to launch a specific Mac Program. This new version will also support removable media drives. Version 2.0 will be available on December 15th, and sells for $90 (less via mail-order). Owners of the older version can upgrade for $25.

New Thunder II In the Works

Baseline Publishing has acquired the rights to Thunder II, the popular spelling checker previously available from Electronics Arts. Baseline has begun working with the Thunder II author, Evan Gross, on a major upgrade for the program. Current plans for the new version, to be called Thunder 7, include new application compatibility modules and an 80,000 word dictionary/thesaurus. No release date has been announced. ▲

This article was reprinted from January 1991 Washington Apple Pi, Byts and Pyces, Volume 13, Number 1.

Inside MS-DOS

BITS AND BYTE NOTES

Graphical User Interfaces (or Gooies)

By Bill Cowell

WINDOWS –
Probably the weakest feature in Windows 3.0 is the file management functions. Fortunately the third party world has rushed to fill this gap.

Two shareware programs that really help are Command Post and Clik. The current version of Command Post is 7.0j. It takes over where Windows File Manager leaves off. I find it useful in locating and starting non-Windows programs. It even worked with Prodigy on a 386 with only 1 MB of RAM. It has a number of other modules that allow you to customize and organize your Windows world. It even includes a good screen saver. Clik is just a file manager. It really makes file management under Windows easy. When activated it pops up with dual directories. On the left is the current one you are in, and on the right is any other directory that you select. Moving files between these two is just a mouse click or two away.

Many have been suggesting that you have 4MB of RAM to run Windows. My impression is that 2MB is adequate. Even only one MB is not bad as long as you aren't program hopping. I have yet to feel that I really had to run more than one program at a time. (Maybe I'm just lazy). Running with 2MB doesn't result in much of a speed penalty according to tests run by InfoWorld. In their tests, there was only a few seconds difference in performance between a system with 4MBs and 2MBs. The one exception was a test with three large programs loaded into a 386 running in the enhanced 386 mode. The same machine and programs, when running in the standard mode, showed only 18 seconds difference. The tests were run on a 8 MHz 286 and on a 25 MHz 386. The performance difference appeared to be merely a ratio of the clock speeds. The sixteen versus a 32-bit bus apparently didn't make a difference.

WINDOWS 3.1 –
It's on its way, but we probably won't see it until about the middle of next year.

GEOS (or Windows for the XT) –
PC World's November issue had a very favorable review of Geos. Their impression was that it was easier to use and faster than Windows. At least its performance on an XT was quite good. Application programs that are included with the basic package also received a good report. The list price of $195 may be a little high, at least when compared to Windows 3.0. If you want a graphical user interface on your XT, it's probably the only way to go. Laser Computer company is bundling it with their Laser Pal 286 computer. This unit is intended to offer a better entry level system than the IBM PS/1 (That shouldn't be too hard).

THE OLD OPERATING SYSTEM (a.k.a., MS-DOS) version 5.0 –
Latest word is that it will be out in January. If initial reports are right, Gates will have another winner. It could sell even more than Windows 3.0. With a list price under $100 and potential sales in the multi-millions, Bill should pick up another $50 million or so. A few of the important features include: (1) A base memory requirement of as little as 15k; (2) Memory management similar to that in Windows 3.0; (3) A task switcher; (4) Improved file management; (5) The Quick Basic Inter-

preter, editor and debugging tools; (6) An improved operating shell similar to Windows; (7) Miscellaneous improvements in the more used DOS commands, such as DIR. As if several million copies wasn't profit enough, Microsoft is apparently going to have one of the notorious money making 900 telephone numbers. If you want help with the new DOS you are going to have a big telephone bill.

DOS UPGRADES –

Should you upgrade? Here is a quick summary of the various MS-DOS upgrades

DOS #	Memory Used	Drives and Formats	Other Features
2.0	24,688	10 MB HD	Disk Label
3.05	38,928	20 MB HD	RAM disk, CMOS clock support, path prefix
3.1	38,960		LAN support
3.2	46,000	3 1/2 FD 720k	XCopy
3.3	54,992	3 1/2FD 1.44 MB	
4.01	68,608	Large HD partitions	EMS 4.0, DOS Shell

SOFTWARE NEWS/CHEAP ACCOUNTING –

The originator of the DacEasy accounting program has now started over. Pacioll 2000 is a $49.99 bargain accounting program. It includes some of the current DacEasy 4.0 features, and a return to some of the original Dac program features. Unfortunately these are the features that made DacEasy difficult for non-accountants to use. The strongest feature of the new program is the inventory module. The weakest feature is the very limited reporting capability. Even with a price of $50, it comes complete with video training and free support. It may not be the best accounting package available, but it certainly is the cheapest.

Probably the best home/small business accounting package, under $100 dollars, that includes inventory management is Money Matters. Its big brother is One Write Plus. American Small Business now has a bundle that includes it and Lotus 1-2-3 (ver 2.2). Also included is a linking program which automatically transfers accounting data to a spreadsheet template. The bundle is marketed under the name of Financial Manager. It is an excellent combination. The linking program adds a menu option called @Accounting in the One Write master menu. Choosing this option, links you to Lotus and seven financial analysis templates. After you choose one of these templates, the necessary data is extracted from your accounting files and you are popped into Lotus. You can then use all the Lotus capabilities including graphing. The program includes macros so you don't really have to know how to work with Lotus to make cash-flow analysis, forecasts, trends and ratio, and other analyses of your accounting data. If you already have the other programs, the linking program, @Accounting, can be bought separately. @Accounting has a list price of $99. The full combined package lists at $795.

OTHER UPDATED SOFTWARE –

Borland has just updated both Quattro Pro and Paradox. Early indications are that Quattro has leap-frogged over Lotus again. Both programs have received top awards from just about all reviewers. I have just loaded Quattro Pro on my machine, and from what I've seen, its going to give me the best in a spreadsheet, and maybe all I need for desktop publishing and presentation graphics. It also includes a printer driver for the color version of my favorite Citizen printer. I have had trouble with other programs when it comes to getting adequate control of color output. I hope this time I have better results.

Logitech has just released a new hand scanner and image editing software. It provides a significant improvement over their initial hand scanner. The Scanman Model 256 software runs under Windows 3.0. The scanner provide scanned images with up to 256 shades of grey. This level of capability was previously only available in expensive full page scanners. The software includes image merging software that makes it easy to combine multiple scans into a full page image. The Ansel software also includes image enhancing capability that will let you produce a printed image of near photo quality. The quality of scanned image it provides is an excellent input source for OCR (optical character recognition) software packages.

COMDEX –

This is really a Comdex preview, since its written just before leaving for the BIG show starting Nov 12th. I expect to see a number of new products, some of which were announced prior to Comdex. Citizen is following up on its highly successful GSX- 140 printer by releasing the GSX-145, a the wide carriage version. (The Citizen nine-pin 200GX and the 24 pin GSX-140 received the PC Mag Editor's Choice award in the current printer issue.) The new printer will also have a quiet mode. List price will be $649. This model will be directly competitive with the Panasonic 1624. It will have a color option, which the Panasonic doesn't have.

In the laser printer field, Okidata is the first to release a laser printer with a list price of less than $1000. This means the street price will be about $750. Initial review by PC Magazine has given it an Editors Choice award. With the combination of an aggressive price and a good review, it may give the HP IIP some competition.

Of course there will be a flood of new laptop computer, maybe even IBM will come up with one. There is suppose to be in excess of 20 new units and this is in addition to those already announced in the last few weeks.

Kodak will introduce a Photo CD system that will take pictures from a 35mm camera and process them for storage on a CD. Processing cost will about $20 for a 24 exposure roll of film. End product is supposed to give a screen image with the full quality of a color print. The initial cost of

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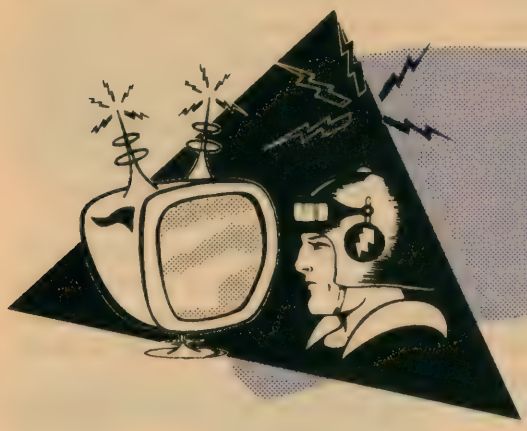


WINDOWS 3.0 - The Future Is Here!

by Steve R. Cavanaugh

INTRODUCTION

I was home sick the day Bill Gates announced the release of the long awaited Windows 3.0. I nearly leapt off of the couch when he appeared on the afternoon news to say that Windows 3.0 would be shipped "tomorrow." I had been anxiously awaiting this news for some time; in fact I had already written a report on what features were anticipated. I was ecstatic to find an envelope from Microsoft in my company mail the next day. I was impressed that the upgrade information was in my hands the very day that Windows 3.0 was announced.

Having been an early Macintosh fanatic, (and an inveterate Windows critic), I was curious just how close Microsoft could come to the "standard" Graphic User Interface (GUI). I was also curious because I have an AGI 3000D 386 PC at home, and an AST 386SX at work. I also use Word for Windows as my primary word processor.

INSTALLATION

I couldn't wait for my upgrade to arrive, and I went down to Egghead and bought my upgrade for $5.55 less than Microsoft's upgrade fee of $50 plus $5.50 for shipping (that's $49.95 for those of you who don't have your Windows calculator handy). Being the type of user who believes in doing first and reading the manual later, I scanned the directory of Disk #1, and sure enough there was SETUP.EXE.

I set Windows up on my home PC first. My 3000D has 1 Mb of memory, and I've been using QEMM 5.0 as my memory manager (a very good memory tool). I ran SETUP from the A: drive, and after entering the correct drive and subdirectory, was presented with a configuration screen (in DOS character mode) that listed PC type, Monitor type, how much memory, etc. The instructions indicated to press ENTER to accept what Windows had discovered about my system, or cursor up to whatever I disagreed with and change it.

Windows had correctly ascertained my hardware configuration, so I pressed ENTER. The intro screen has a little status bar at the bottom, and I noticed that it indicated that files were being copied to the drive and subdirectory I had specified. I already knew that Windows 3.0 wouldn't run some of my old Windows software, so I elected not to write over the old version, but instead created a new directory on a different drive (I didn't realize Windows 3.0 can run the old stuff if you start it in REAL mode, but I'm getting ahead of myself). It should be noted here that some computers are not 100% Windows compatible. Microsoft is a little vague about what incompatibilities are present, but they provide some drivers that you can select on installation if you have one of those computers. When the configuration screen comes up, you can scroll up to the field for "type of PC" and when you press ENTER, you are presented with a list of known incompatible computers. If yours is not on the list, it is either compatible, or you are out of luck until your hardware manufacturer provides a driver!

After the first disk is transferred, the Text Mode screen prompts for the second disk and the screen driver is copied. Once that happens, the setup program switches to Graphics Mode, and the mouse comes alive. Setup continues to prompt for disks until the 4th disk is transferred. The final screen in Graphics Mode has three check-boxes for installing the printer, automatically installing programs, and automatically reading some text files. This screen is not all that intuitive, and I left all three check-boxes X'ed. Setup prompted me for my printer type, and asked for the last disk. I selected my printer, configured it, and Setup cleared the screen.

I waited for about 5 minutes before I decided Setup wasn't coming back. The mouse pointer was still on the screen, but it was an hourglass shape, and there was

no button to push or menu to select. It was hung. I decided to reboot, and figured maybe my computer was one of those that was incompatible. Just for peace of mind, I went through the whole thing again. Same result. After rebooting, I decided to see if Windows would boot up, and miracle of miracles, it came right up! I moused around for awhile, and decided it looked safe enough to use at least on a temporary basis. I have to admit that I am using the results of that installation right now, and have been for several weeks.

The next day I installed Windows 3.0 on my AST 386SX at work. Strangely, I got exactly the same glitch after the printer was installed. In fact, I never got Setup to complete on any of the 3 PC's I installed it on until I un-checked the option to automatically set up programs for me. It's just as well, I would rather do that myself.

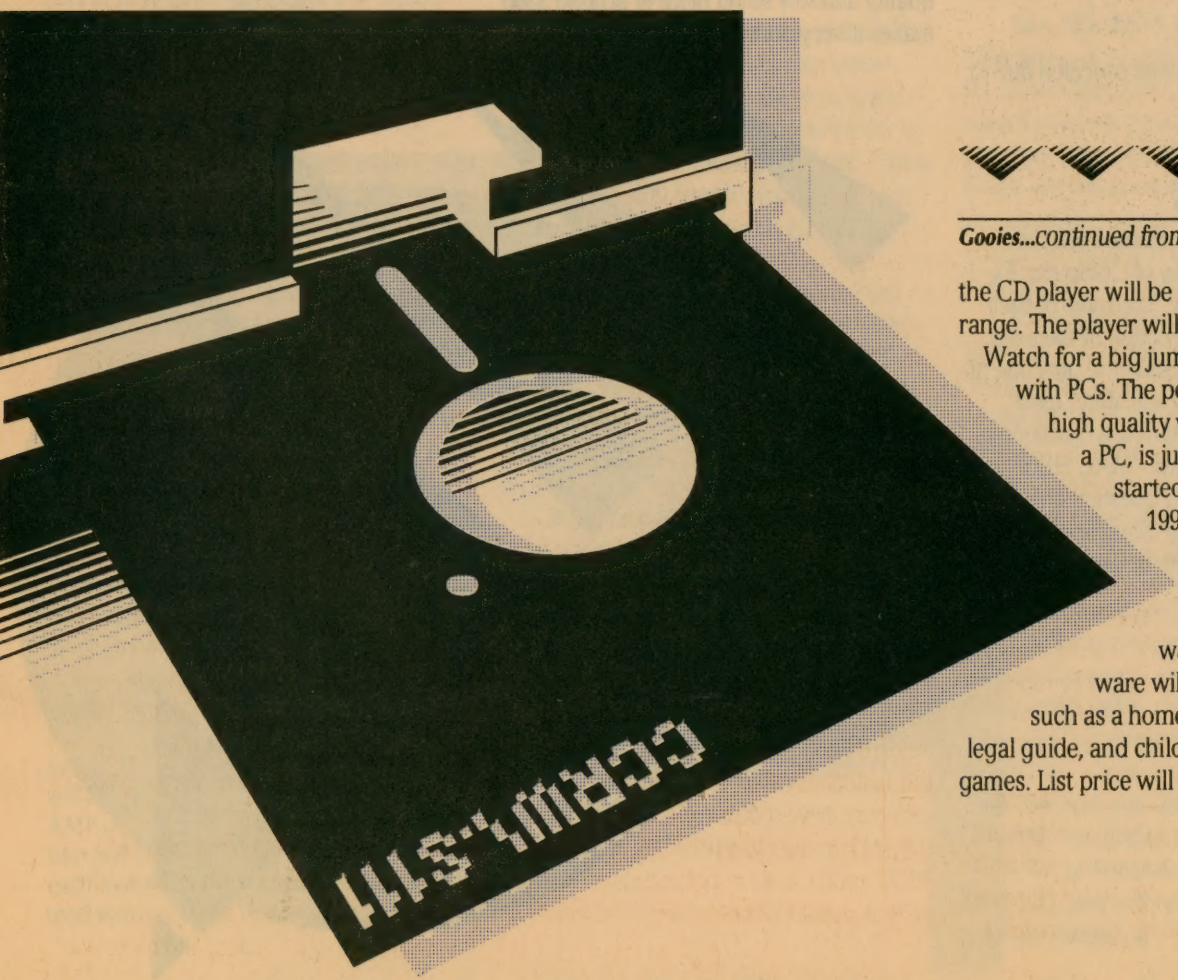
After I had the program running, the first thing I wanted to see was what Setup did to my AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS. I was amazed to see that Setup had left QEMM intact, even though it had installed HIMEM.SYS. On a reboot, I noticed a memory allocation error, and decided to REM out QEMM to see if I could get things happy. Sure enough, the memory error went away. I still need to spend some time and figure out exactly what memory management I need and how to set it all up. I had been using 386 Max Professional at work, and here again, Windows just ignored my memory driver and installed HIMEM.SYS before it in CONFIG.SYS.

Windows 3.0 automatically starts up in one of three different modes: Real mode; Standard mode; or 386 Enhanced mode. Real mode works like the old Windows in that you have only the base 640K of memory available (you get this automatically if you have an XT or plain PC). Standard mode gives you access to the full 16 Megabytes of extended memory, EVEN IF YOU ONLY HAVE A 286! 386 Enhanced mode also uses extended memory, but it also allows you to multitask programs in a window. I use 386 enhanced mode at work to run Word for Windows in one window and Dbase III+ in another. It works!

You can force Windows to start up in Real mode by adding a /R to the command line. You'll need that to run old Windows software that hasn't been reconfigured for Windows 3.0.

One more thing: Once Windows 3.0 is installed you will have used up about 6 to 7 Megabytes of disk space, so don't start the install unless you have at least that much available. ▲

This article will be continued in next month's newsletter. Don't miss WINDOWS 3.0 – WHAT'S INCLUDED – an exploration of Windows 3.0's features – coming in March.



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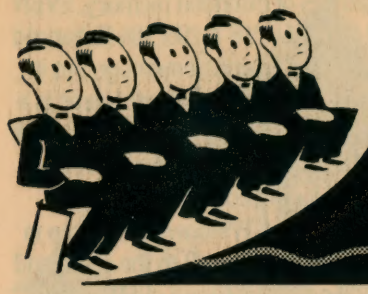
the CD player will be in the $400-500 range. The player will also play audio CDs. Watch for a big jump in the use of CDs with PCs. The potential for really high quality video, with audio, on a PC, is just barely getting started. The buzz word for 1991 will be Interactive CD ROM. Sony will bundle a CD player with software on CDs. Software will cover applications such as a home medical guides, a legal guide, and children's books and games. List price will be under $500. ▲



Meeting Briefs

AMIGALLIANCE SIG

During January's meeting, Michael Cline demonstrated Deluxe Paint III showing some of its many capabilities with both static images and animated sequences.

The best way to start our new year off was with our newest member – a brand new 25 mHz AMIGA 3000 for the SIG. It was definitely a great Christmas present for us.

APPLE // FAMILY

The January meeting was canceled due to the Holidays.

MACINTOSH SIG

The Macintosh SIG presented Harold Dunkle and Dye Holley of Computer Exchange Northwest Inc. The topic of their discussion was the direction of the used computer market and how the new line of Macintosh computers will affect used Macs. This year, we started an additional service to our members – MAC HELP. It is 45 minutes of help and question answering on the basics of the Macintosh. It will be offered every month at 6:45 p.m. before our SIG meetings.

MS-DOS SIG

The MS-DOS SIG did not meet in December due to the Christmas Holidays. January's meeting was "Show and Tell". Members brought their new hardware and software to show. Gerry Drake was one of the major contributors with his new Deskjet Printer. We all got a chance to look at it and see a demonstration. There is now ink that is not water soluble for the Deskjet and the printer's high print quality and low street price of around $300 makes it very desirable.

February 1991 Special Interest Group Meeting Information

"C" PROGRAMMERS SIG

This group has been discontinued for lack of interest. Please contact Doug Trueman if you have any interest in getting this group going again.

MAC PROGRAMMERS SIG

We will have our usual roundtable discussion of programming issues and topics, breaking up into smaller groups if the need arises.

AMIGALLIANCE

Thanks to Michael Cline for last month's demonstration of special effects possible with Electronic Arts' DeluxePaint III. This month we will have a report on Jim Walley's recent trip to the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, NV.

Demos of new Amiga software will also be presented. If you have something to show, please bring it in. At least come and see our beautiful new 25 MHz 3000 with its stereo speakers and MultiScan monitor!

AMIGA New User Orientation Classes – Two sessions have been set aside each month. But you MUST call the office to make an appointment for a particular class. If there are people signed up, classes will be held. The first session is held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This shorter session will end in time for us to be part of the AMIGAlliance meeting. The second session will be held on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. This session will tend to run longer, ending at about noon.

MACINTOSH SIG

February is the month we've been waiting for. **Microsoft** is coming to speak on their well known products **Word** and **Excel.** There will be a question and answer session after the presentation.

Mac Help Mac Help is 45 minutes of help and question answering on the basics of the Macintosh. Mac Help starts at 6:45 p.m. and is offered every month at the same time.

Public Domain Software and Shareware – Our extensive library of software will be available at this meeting. We have the cheapest price in town at just $3.00 per 800k disk. Come ready to order!!!

Free Access to the TechAlliance BBS – Receive 2 free weeks with full access on the nationally renowned TechAlliance Bulletin Board System, Just for coming in and attending the meeting.

APPLE // FAMILY

This month we will be looking at the MIDI interface to the Apple. Toby has volunteered to tell us how to make the Apple // sing. He will be explaining how the thing works and demonstrating it as well. If you are interested in how to really "do music" on the Apple // you won't want to miss this one. See you there.

Unfortunately, last month we were not able to look at the new Optical Character Reader (scanner-to-word processor *translator*) software known as "InWords". The software did not arrive. We will try to reschedule it's appearance for a later meeting.

Preview of next month – "Meet a Local Author". Ken Franklin, a local shareware and game producer, will be our guest speaker. He is the author of *One Armed Battle*, *Plunder*, and *Milestone 2000*.

NOTE:

Don't forget to come to Jim Morrison's beginners class for Apple // owners from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

MS-DOS SIG

Beginner's Corner – 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – New Users, this time is set aside for you. Ask questions and get the answers complete with demonstrations and hands-on practice. You sure can't get that kind of help from a manual.

Regular Meeting – February is the month of LOVE, so Bob Caldwell will be showing off his newest love – A BRAND NEW 386 MACHINE. He is very proud of it and would like us all to OOOH and AAAH over it. We will discuss the do's and don'ts of purchasing a new system. So bring your questions and concerns and someone in the crowd will surely be able to answer them.

William Cowell will spend some time telling us what he saw of interest at Comdex this winter. He has promised to bring a program called Tele-Magic which is a telephone contact data base. It was reviewed in a recent PC Magazine and received very good ratings.

The MS-DOS Shareware Library will be available at this meeting for unbelievably low prices! $1.00 per copy if you bring your own disk and $2.00 per copy if the SIG supplies the disk. Prices are based on the number of 360K library disks copied. Our library has grown by leaps and bounds thanks to all Bob Caldwell's efforts.

TechAlliance BBS will bring a special offer to the meeting. Come to the February meeting and receive 2 weeks free access to the TechAlliance BBS with upload and download privileges. Paul Stout, our BBS System Operator, will be there to answer any questions about using a modem or purchasing one.

Finally, to make a good meeting even better, we will be raffling off a small item. Ticket price will depend on the number of members present. The more members, the cheaper the raffle. ONE MORE THING!! There will be attendance incentives again this month. Come and see what they are – You'll be glad you did!

1991 has gotten off to a G R E A T S T A R T at TechAlliance and the MS-DOS SIG, and with your attendance it can only get better! ▲

TechAlliance Application for Membership or Renewal

Yes! Sign me up for one year's membership in TechAlliance for $25.
(International memberships are $35.)

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Address _____ Home Phone _____

_____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ Charge my bank card (VISA or MasterCard)

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

February Meeting Schedule

***Advance sign-up required for these meetings.*

Tues. February 5th	IIGS Beginners Session – 7:00 p.m. IIGS(&// Family) SIG – 7:30 p.m.
Tues. February 12th	Mac Help Session – 6:45 p.m. Mac SIG meeting – 7:30 p.m.
Wed. February 13th	Amiga New User Class – 6:30 p.m.** AMIGAlliance – 7:30 p.m.
Sat. February 16th	Amiga New User Class – 10:00 a.m.**
Tues. February 19th	Voluntary Advisory Committee – 7:00 p.m.
Wed. February 20th	Mac Programmers SIG – 7:00 p.m.
Tues. February 26th	MS-DOS Beginners Corner – 6:30 p.m. MS-DOS SIG meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Tues. April 2nd	Annual General Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Location:	All meetings are held at the office unless otherwise specified.

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